

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3629

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4358

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, FPOR, XG

SUBJ: CSCE POLICY: SPEAKERS LIST FOR STAGE III

REF: GENEVA 3676

1. SINCE TRANSMISSION OF REFTEL CONFERENCE CONSENSUS HAS BEGUN TO EMERGE THAT SPEAKERS LIST SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN PRINCIPLE BY DRAWING LOTS IN GENEVA BEFORE END OF STAGE II. THIS HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY FINNS AND HAS RECIEVED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT. WHILE THEY HAVE TAKEN NO PUBLIC POSITION ON THIS POINT, SOVIETS HAVE TOLD THE FRENCH PRIVATELY THAT THEY PREFER DRAWING LOTS TO ESTABLISH THE SPEAKERS LIST.

2. DRAWING LOTS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT ENSURE THAT BREZHNEV DOES NOT SPEAK FIRST, AS WE ARE INSTRUCTED BY STATE 116033, BUT, PROVIDED THERE IS SOME PROHIBITION AGAINST TRADING, DRAWING OF LOTS WOULD REDUCE BREZHNEV'S CHANCES OF SPEAKING FIRST TO ONE OUT OF 35, WHICH IS PRETTY

LONG SHOT. ALTERNATIVELY,DRAWING LOTS ONLY FOR FIRST SPEAKER AND FOLLOWING FRENCH ALPHABETICAL ORDER FROM
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THAT POINT WOULD MAKE IT RELATIVELY DIFFICULT FOR THE

SOVIETS TO TRADE FOR FIRST PLACE.

3. WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF DRAWING
LOTS, BUT TO PURSUE BOTH OF THE STIPULATIONS MENTIONED
IN PARA 2 ABOVE AS INSURANCE THAT SOVIETS WILL HAVE NO
MORE THAN A ONE OUT OF 35 CHANCE. THIS DOES NOT REPEAT
NOT FULLY CONFORM TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN STATE
116033, BUT WE FEEL THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT OFFERS THE BEST
POSSIBILITY FOR EXCLUDING BREZHNEV FROM FIRST PLACE. IN VIEW OF
THE POSSIBLE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF OUTCOME OF THIS ISSUE
WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION THAT
THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, IN THE
ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY WE WILL USE
WHATEVER OPPORTUNITIES MAY ARISE TO INFLUENCE CONFERENCE
THINKING IN THIS SENSE.

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